

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 004568

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LY, US

SUBJECT:US-LIBYAN RELATIONS: ENLARGING LIBYAN EMBASSY
STAFF IN WASHINGTON

REF: A. TRIPOLI 19 B. CAIRO 05640 OF 5 JUNE 1975

1. DEPARTMENT HAS DECIDED TO LIFT RESTRICTIONS ON SIZE
LIBYAN MISSION IN WASHINGTON AND WILL DELIVER FOLLOWING
NOTE TO EMBASSY HERE ON JANUARY 8: QUOTE: THE DEPARTMENT OF
STATE REFERS TO THE NOTE OF SEPTEMBER 2, 1975 FROM THE
EMBASSY OF THE LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC OFFICIALLY CONVEYING
THE DECISION OF THE LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC TO LIFT THE
RESTRICTION ON THE NUMBER OF U.S. DIPLOMATIC STAFF ASSIGNED
TO THE U.S. EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES, ON THE BASIS OF RECIPROCITY, HAS DECIDED TO
LIFT THE RESTRICTION ON THE SIZE OF THE DIPLOMATIC STAFF
WORKING AT THE EMBASSY OF THE LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC IN
WASHINGTON. THIS INFORMATION IS ALSO BEING CONVEYED THROUGH
THE UNITED STATES CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN TRIPOLI TO THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. UNQUOTE.

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2. THIS RESPONDS TO ONE OF SEVERAL LIBYAN DEMARCHES MADE IN 1975 IN NAME OF "IMPROVED" RELATIONS. DEPT. DOES NOT PLAN TO RESPOND TO OTHER OUTSTANDING REQUESTS (E.G.,

RELEASE OF C-130S OR AGREEMENT OF LIBYAN AMBASSADOR) GIVEN CONTINUED ACTIVE OPPOSITION OF LARG TO OUR EFFORTS IN SUPPORT OF NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN MIDDLE EAST. THIS DECISION TO REMOVE CEILING ON LIBYAN MISSION PERSONNEL IN WASHINGTON IS BASED ON USG DESIRE TO IMPROVE WORKING LEVEL COMMUNICATIONS IN SUCH MATTERS AS CONSULAR AND COMMERCIAL SERVICES, AND IS IN RECIPROCITY FOR EARLIER LIBYAN REMOVAL OF CEILING ON U.S. DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL IN TRIPOLI.

3. EMBASSY TRIPOLI SHOULD INFORM MFA ORALLY OF DEPARTMENT DECISION CONVEYED BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO ITS MISSION HERE.

4. FOR CAIRO: WHILE YOU SHOULD NOT VOLUNTEER THIS INFORMATION TO GOE, IF ASKED YOU SHOULD ASSURE EGYPTIANS THAT ACTION WAS SIMPLE RECIPROCAL GESTURE IN RESPONSE TO SIMILAR ACTION BY LIBYANS, WILL HELP ALLEVIATE LIBYAN EMBASSY'S CONSULAR WORKLOAD (WHICH IS ALSO IN USG INTEREST) AND CARRIES NO POLICY SIGNIFICANCE. WE HAVE NOT GRANTED AGREEMENT FOR A LIBYAN AMBASSADOR AND HAVE NO INTENTION OF RAISING LEVEL OF OFFICIAL U.S.-LIBYAN RELATIONS AT THIS TIME. KISSINGER

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